



## Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

[www.laccod.org](http://www.laccod.org)



### MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller  
President

Janet A. Neal  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Harley D. Rubenstein  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Bernard Siegel  
Treasurer

Mary Chambers  
Wan Chun Chang  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Donna Pomerantz  
Alexia Teran  
John B. Troost  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

### **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of President Weller, the meeting was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal at 1:20 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: Janet A. Neal, Harley D. Rubenstein, Bernard Siegel, Donna Pomerantz, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Alexia Teran, John B. Troost and Wan Chun Chang. President Kecia B. Weller, Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Mary Chambers, Sheila Wright and Wendy L. Welt were not present.

### **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 16, 2008, MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Troost, seconded by Commissioner Siegel, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of March 19, 2008, were approved with the following corrections:

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### **REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Mr. Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Disability Rights Section, reported the following:

- The Office of Affirmative Action Compliance (OAAC) conducted ADA compliance audits in **coordinated the development of transition and self-evaluation plans** for County Departments in 2001. The U.S. Department of Justice consequently advised the OAAC that the County met all **plans demonstrated good faith efforts** ADA requirements.

Today, OAAC wants to update all the ADA transition plans and self-evaluation plans for all County Departments. This month OAAC met with the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Community and Senior Services, Sheriff, and Public Library, ~~and have made significant progress with ADA compliance audits~~ **to address ADA issues.**

- OAAC has developed ~~new software~~ **an excel spreadsheet** that County Departments can use to track their transition plans. This ~~formal software~~ **spreadsheet** will be rolled out to all County Departments in the near future.

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**GUESTS**

~~John Longoria~~ **Longoria**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported the following:

- Attendance to Commission meetings is important; Commissioners are encouraged to call staff to inform them of his or her absence to a meeting. Commission staff will send letters to those Commissioners with excessive absences pursuant to the Commission's Bylaws. When appropriate, letters will be sent to the appointing Supervisors apprising them of the unavailability of their appointed Commissioners and requesting a replacement.
- Commissioners are encouraged to join a Committee and participate in its activities.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal has been assisting a disabled veteran with a spinal cord injury who is having recertification problems with Access Services, Inc. To date, she has been able to get this individual a visitor's certification as a reasonable accommodation.
- The Cultural Diversity and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training attended by the Commission did not provide adequate reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Several Commissioners expressed their disappointment with the accommodations offered to the Commissioners with disabilities who attended the training.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- The Office of Affirmative Action Compliance will be offering added dates for the Sexual Harassment Prevention and Cultural Diversity Training for those Commissioners who were not able to attend the trainings on previous dates.
- The *Access to Resources for People with Disabilities* booklet is not available for distribution at this time. Commission Services is waiting for the Board's approval of the booklet.
- Commissioner biographies on the website have been updated. Staff will continue updating this site, as needed, upon receiving any outstanding biographies.
- The Commission received the following invitations: 1) The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Information Fair and Festival on Sunday, April 27, 2008, from 1-4 p.m. at Cortez Park in West Covina sponsored by the San Gabriel/Pomona Parents' Place Family Resource Center; 2) the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, sponsored by the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities that will take place on July 27-31, 2008, in the State Capitol; 3) the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing Rights Summit sponsored by the Housing Rights Center to be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at the L.A. Times Building, 202 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Commissioner packets include a copy of an e-mail from Ms. Sandy Eisenberg regarding the live captioning of radio programs and two disability-related articles.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ms. Sandy Varga** addressed the Commission for Mr. Daniel Garcia, who represents the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center. She reported on transportation and paratransit barriers faced by the disability community in East Los Angeles and San Gabriel, and on the substandard services that Access Services, Inc., provides the disability community, particularly as it relates to recertification processes.

**Mr. Reginald Robinson**, representing Communities Actively Living Independent and Free (CALIF), submitted a copy of correspondence from Ms. Lillibeth Navarro, Executive Director of CALIF, to the Board of Directors Metropolitan Transit Authority, dated March 19, 2008, reporting CALIF's protest to the Access Services Board of Directors for awarding a contract to Mr. David Lee of CARE Evaluators. The letter also expressed the disability community's repeated protests on the unfair evaluation process by CARE Evaluators.

**Ms. Kitty Hulscher**, representing *adaride.com*, reported that this company is applying for a grant to create a website ([www.findarideinfo.com](http://www.findarideinfo.com)) identifying transportation resources for the disability community, and has come before the Commission to ask for a letter of support. She further added that *adaride.com* submitted an RFP proposal to Access Services, Inc. (ASI), and that she has filed an appeal with ASI about RFP #ASI-2441 because of irregularities by ASI in its RFP processes when granting the RFP to CARE Evaluators.

#### **PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM GUIDE DOG USERS OF CALIFORNIA**

Mr. Jerry Arakawa, representing Guide Dog Users of California (GDUC) and Guide Dog Users Incorporated, reported that GDUC:

- Falls under the umbrella of the California Council of the Blind (CCB), and is the second-largest state affiliate for consumers using guide dogs and for people who are involved in the *Guide Dog Movement*.
- Provides advocacy for guide dog users and provides information about training schools and processes for school certification.
- Holds two conventions affiliated with the CCB – one in Northern California in the spring, and another in Southern California in the fall.
- Has been instrumental in assisting with the creation of policy affecting guide dogs, such as unleashed dogs.
- Educates the community-at-large, law enforcement, and elementary school children on interacting with and handling service dogs.
- In conjunction with CCB, GDUC has developed an educational video that highlights the issue of dog attacks and dog interference. Copies of this video will be sent to the Commission for distribution to raise awareness on guide dog handling and interference issues.

Commissioner Teran offered a recommendation to disseminate information on handling guide dogs to the elementary school students in an effort to raise awareness.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Executive Committee***

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported that the Executive Committee will meet today, following this meeting.

### ***Public Relations Committee***

#### ***Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM***

##### **Captioning Status**

Ms. Sandy Eisenberg, representing Total Recall, provided an update about her communication with the Executive Office's Information Management Resources (IRM). She reported that she has given the IRM staff information and resources/options on "streaming" the *Disability Network* program on the Commission's website.

##### **Selection of Guests**

On motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to give the Commissioner hosting the "Disability Network" program, on KTYM 1460 AM, the authority to select guests for the radio show.

##### ***Promotional Items***

On motion of Commissioner Pomerantz, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the reimbursement for the purchase of 500 pens at a total cost of \$274.31 to be used as Commission's promotional items.

##### ***Bill Tainter Scholarship Program***

On motion of Commissioner Pomerantz, seconded by Commissioner Siegel, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved adding an additional scholarship to the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program for a veteran with a disability seeking higher education, in honor of former Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awards Luncheon*

On motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens as the place for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awards Luncheon.

**Community Service**

None.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

*ASI Report – Teddie-Joy Remhild*

Ms. Remhild reported that, in 2002, she was appointed to the Access Services Board of Directors (ASI Board) as a representative of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities. She further added that because of her current job duties and health, she will vacate the ASI Board position no later than June 1, 2008. Ms. Remhild introduced and endorsed Ms. Sandy Varga as an excellent candidate to replace her.

Mr. Hugh Hallenberg addressed the Commission expressing his support on the nomination of Ms. Sandy Varga to serve as the delegate to the Access Services Board of Directors on behalf of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities.

**Ms. Kitty Hulscher**, representing *adaride.com*, reported that she has filed an appeal with ASI pertaining to RFP #ASI-2441 because of irregularities by ASI in its RFP processes when granting the RFP to CARE Evaluators.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Neal added that, because of the many problems that the disability community is having with ASI and its certification processes, she would like the Commission to send a letter to ASI voicing its concerns.

Therefore, on motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to send a letter to ASI voicing its concern with ASI's certification processes and the problems encountered by the disability community.

### **REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Mr. Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Disability Rights Section, gave a status report on OAAC's transition plans. He reported that OAAC has initiated assessment of 15 County Departments; has had excellent progress and added that:

- OAAC has assessed 15 facilities of the Department of Community and Senior Services (DCSS) and has worked with DCSS using improvement capital project funds as well as special funding from the ADA Extraordinary Maintenance fund administered by OAAC to remove barriers under the program *Access Concept*. Upon completion, DCSS will be in full compliance.
- Similarly, OAAC plans to get directly involved in assuring that the transition plans are taking place, the barriers are removed, and that the two-year threshold for County Department Access Plans is met.
- OAAC has conducted assessments in other County Departments including the Department of Animal Care and Control and plans to assess the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (KHHA) next month. Mr. Anthony encouraged Commissioners and the community-at-large to contact him with any barrier issues that the KHHA has.

### **ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal and Treasurer Rubenstein requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda for review and discussion:

- Discussion on and approval of a letter to the Mayor of Los Angeles supporting the City's decision to keep the Department on Disability as its own department and not merging it with another department.
- Discussion on and approval of a letter to Los Angeles County Supervisors regarding placing accessible doors at all Supervisors' offices.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal announced that she received a flyer from CALIF protesting Governor Schwarzenegger's budget cuts. She further added that it was her understanding that the *Economic Stimulus Payments* would impact individuals' Supplemental Security Income benefits.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Pomerantz, seconded by 2nd Vice President Rubenstein, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. in memory of LAPD Officer Randall Simmons, SWAT Team member, who was killed in the line of duty.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Present**

Janet A. Neal, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer  
Wan-Chun Chang  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Donna Pomerantz  
Alexia Teran  
John B. Troost

### **Los Angeles County Departments**

Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy, OAAC  
Kurt Hagan, Deputy, OAAC

### **Guests**

Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall Captioning  
Sharene Ramirez, Total Recall Captioning  
Jerry Arakawa, Guide Users of California  
Vanessa Nava, State Dept. of Rehabilitation  
Magda Carrero, East Los Angeles Regional Center  
Daniel Garcia, East Los Angeles Regional Center  
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional Center  
Reginald Robinson, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free  
Jopie Coscolluela, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free  
Kitty Hulscher, adaride.com  
Donald Brandon  
Hugh Hallenberg  
Susan Sussman  
Sandy Varga

### **Excused Absence**

Kecia B. Weller, President  
Mary Chambers  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Wendy Welt  
Sheila Wright

### **Access Services, Inc.**

Teddie-Joy Remhild  
Richard Martindale-Essington

### **Board of Supervisors**

Rosemary Osuna, Staff  
Martha Arana, Staff  
Audra Galang, Staff